



Under Your
CAP



Volume I, Issue 2

Newsletter For The Des Moines Composite Squadron

October 2005

Everyday Heroes

The Faces of the Civil Air Patrol

Since the beginning of my command, I have seen our EVERYDAY HEROES and the faces in our Squadron.

Each and every one of you are a hero for taking the time out of your busy schedule and your day-day lives and give your time to the Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary on countless occasions.

You have flown countless missions that requires you to be called at 0200 in the mornings for an ELT or called out for a missing person search and even take pictures of disasters at any given time of day.

You give me support and the knowledge that I need to know to put into action at any given time.

I want to thank each and every hero in our squadron and I am proud to be your commander.

Thank you.

ALLEN CHILCOTE, LTCOL, CAP
Commander
Des Moines Composite Squadron



Your Submissions Needed!

Do you have an idea for an article? Have you take an interesting photo (like the above photo taken at the Air Force Evaluation in Marshalltown)? Do you have news to share?

Submissions are due by the 15th, and should be sent to: dwood@iawg.cap.gov

Let everyone know what's Under Your CAP!

Need Training?

Do you need training to get qualified for Emergency Services?

October 29th at the Ames Airport the Des Moines, Ames, and Sac City squadrons are hosting a training exercise.

For more information, contact Kim Kirschman at: n2055d@hotmail.com

Tune In Tony

Submitted By
Lt Tony Crandell

“Roger Dodger you old codger...over under and out!” No one misses the days of the “CB” jargon. But during the last SAREX, 1Lt Brudkuhl and I were discussing how sometimes other communications services prowords slip into our CAP prowords usage. The ones that came to mind as ones that we tend to hear the most; are the words: “Roger” rather than “Wilco”; “Clear” rather than “Out”, and “Repeat” rather than “Say again”.

The accepted usage of “Roger”, means I acknowledge “ or I have received and understand” in contrast to “Wilco” which means “Not only do I acknowledge and understand but I will comply”.

“Over” denotes that I am finished with my transmission and now it is your turn. It also can mean I am expecting further information from you”. “Out” means, not only I am finished with my transmission, but I am also done with this exchange and I am not expecting any further from you.”

Most generally the originating station is the one to determine whether the exchange is complete or not and is the one who ends with “out” The use of “Clear” means basically the same thing as “Out” and has crept in from other communications protocols and is not an accepted CAP proword.

“When I was in the Artillery, “Repeat” meant “fire the last mission again”...we NEVER used that word as a communications proword. The CAP accepted terminology to have

someone “repeat” a transmission is “say again”. “ Repeat” means “to do again whatever you just did again” and that may have very confusing connotations in our business.

On another note, I was at my friendly Sam’s club the other day and noticed how the “seasoned” help all held their portable radios horizontally, with their hand over the top of the radio. The new employees all held their radios conventionally as we do. I asked an employee why? She said that it was easier to read the descriptions on boxes without the antenna being in the field of view.



Two problems come to mind with this thinking. First of all, the CAP communications world is a “vertically” polarized environment. Antennas work best when they are vertical. In my technical work, when I have competing frequencies on the same mast, I some times deliberately mount antennas for other frequencies horizontally next to my vertical ones to help in the attenuation of the competing signals. In short, when you hold your handheld radio horizontally, you are decreasing your range somewhat.

Secondly, the body mass can tend to attenuate the signal when it masks the antenna, When the antenna is held vertically as we are instructed, and while the attenuation is not great, with our very low powered radios, we have the best chance of a successful communication if we keep them vertical.

Senior Salute!

This month we proudly feature Lt Col Chuck McDonald, our local Aerospace Education Officer.

Lt Col. McDonald has dedicated over 43 years to the field of flight. He began his career in the USAF in 1961 and soon after joined the Iowa Air National Guard in training and personnel for over 20 amazing years.



In the late 1980s he transferred to the U.S. Air Force Reserves, and served as Admissions Liaison Officer until he retired in 1992.

All the while Lt Col. McDonald worked in the corporate world as a human resources executive for two Des Moines companies.

His dedication to sharing his knowledge and love of flight has continued into the 21st century through volunteer work as Secretary/Treasurer of Iowa Aviation Promotion Group (the organizers of Fly Iowa), and various youth aviation education activities.

Lt Col. McDonald is a member of AOPA, EAA, CAF, and Civil Air Patrol. He regularly attends the annual convention for the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS). Lt Col. McDonald is also the proud owner of a Cessna 172SP and is rated a commercial pilot.

Lt. Col. McDonald joined CAP in 1991. He has been rated a CAP mission pilot, mission scanner and observer, and air operations director. He served two tours as Des Moines Composite Squadron Commander and in the Iowa Wing as Chief of Staff and Vice Commander.

Notable awards include CAP Exceptional Service Award, and Commanders Commendation Award. Lt. Col. McDonald also directed the CAP counter-drug program that was named best in the North Central Region in 2000.

Lt Col McDonald, WE SALUTE YOU!!

Plan Ahead...

The 2005 Iowa Wing Conference is fast approaching and you don't want to miss it!

This year the conference will be held on November 18-20 at the Iowa National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

Here are the few of the many activities planned:

- Iowa Aviation Resources
- Cadet Programs Open Forum (cadets only)
- CAP Financial Management Software
- Health Services Program
- Iowa CAP Academy Briefing
- Putting a Face On CAP, How We Market and Recruit
- Chaplain & MLO Discussion
- IAWG Communications 2010
- Cadet Programs: Revitalizing Wing & Squadron Programs
- Operations Update
- Operations Training Resources

All that, plus a visit by the National Commander!

For more information or to register, check out the wing website at:

www.iawg.cap.gov

See you there!